

803
RRS: Russell, Richard B
CIA 1-01 McCone
Vietnam

#A93WX

(380) TODAY IN WASHINGTON
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JAN. 12 (AP)-IN THE NEWS FROM WASHINGTON:

VIET NAM: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS PREDICTED U.S. FAILURE IN VIET NAM UNLESS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT BECOMES MORE STABLE.

GEORGIA DEMOCRAT RICHARD RUSSELL SPOKE WITH NEWSMEN MONDAY FOLLOWING A CLOSED BRIEFING OF 15 SENATORS BY JOHN A. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

RUSSELL SAID "IT IS A MIRACLE" THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE CARRIED ON THE WAR AGAINST THE VIET CONG AS WELL AS THEY HAVE "WITH THIS CHANGING CHAIR GOVERNMENT. UNTIL WE STOP THE REVOLVING CHAIR SYSTEM, THERE IS VERY LITTLE HOPE OF MUCH PROGRESS. . . . THE SITUATION WORSENS EVERY TIME THEY HAVE A COUP AND CHANGE THEIR CIVIL GOVERNMENT."

WITHOUT A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON, RUSSELL SAID, "WE CAN'T WIN THE WAR."

SEN. KARL E. MUNDT, R-S.D., SAID HE FELT THE ADMINISTRATION IS TOO INTENT ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT MODELED AFTER WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

MUNDT SAID SOUTH VIET NAM NEEDS "AN AUTHORITY, SOUND, BROADLY BASED AS POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THE WILL TO WIN. I DON'T FEEL WE CAN HAVE FREE, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS THERE AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE."

-0-

#A36WX # (180)

WASHINGTON--FIRST ADD MCCONE-VIET NAM (A25WX) X X X

RUSSELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND OF THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE SAID "IT IS A MIRACLE" THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE CARRIED ON THE WAR AGAINST THE VIET CONG AS WELL AS THEY HAVE "WITH THIS CHANGING CHAIR GOVERNMENT."

"WE CAN'T WIN THE WAR WITHOUT GETTING A MORE STABLE GOVERNMENT THERE," HE ADDED.

MCCONE TESTIFIED BEFORE A JOINT MEETING OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS GROUP AT THE START OF CLOSED HEARINGS LOOKING INTO THE DEFENSE PICTURE AROUND THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

RUSSELL SAID MCCONE REVIEWED THE COMMUNIST MILITARY SITUATION NOT ONLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT AROUND THE WORLD.

"I HEARD NOTHING THAT WOULD JUSTIFY LETTING DOWN OUR EFFORT BY ONE IOTA," HE DECLARED. HE SAID HE DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS LETTING DOWN.

AS FOR SOUTH VIET NAM, RUSSELL SAID THE SITUATION THERE "DEPENDS ON GETTING A STABLE GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE THERE CAN RESPECT AND TRUST."

"UNTIL WE STOP THE REVOLVING CHAIR SYSTEM THERE IS VERY LITTLE HOPE OF MUCH PROGRESS...THE SITUATION WORSENS EVERY TIME THEY HAVE A COUP AND CHANGE THEIR CIVIL GOVERNMENT."

RUSSELL REPORTED THAT NOTHING WAS SAID IN THE BRIEFING "THAT LEADS ME TO BELIEVE WE COULD LET DOWN OUR GUARD OR IN ANY WAY DIMINISH OUR MILITARY EFFORT IN THE THEORY THE SOVIET OR THE COMMUNIST COMPLEX WAS WEAKENING, APPROVED FOR RELEASE 2004/12/17 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700140050-8 AND THE RED CHINESE."